

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 5/2/2011

GAIN Report Number: TH1055

Thailand

Post: Bangkok

Elimination of Starlink-Free Certificate for U.S. Corn Products

Report Categories:

Export Accomplishments - Other

Approved By:

John Wade, Agricultural Counselor

Prepared By:

Sukanya Sirikeratikul, Marketing Specialist

Report Highlights:

TH1055 The Office of Agricultural Affairs in Bangkok successfully negotiated with the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to no longer require a Starlink-free certificate for the import of U.S. corn and corn products. The elimination of this requirement significantly lowers cost for the export of U.S. corn and corn products to Thailand that were valued at \$6 million in 2010.

General Information:**Post succeeds in dealing with the Thai FDA to eliminate unnecessary import requirement of U.S. corn and corn products**

On April 28, the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA) notified WTO of its change in safety measures for Cry 9C DNA Sequence corn (Starlink corn) presence in food. Under the revised regulation, the Thai FDA no longer requires a Starlink-free certificate for the import of corn and corn products. The FDA decision to eliminate the Starlink certificate was made in response to a request from Post. Post and the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) have worked together in this effort. GIPSA provided information indicating that Starlink corn has not been planted in the US since 2000, when its registration was withdrawn and then there has not been a single positive test report since 2005. This along with information shared from Post on other countries' practices on Starlink free testing on U.S. corn products were crucial to Thai FDA's import requirement revision.

Eliminating this costly and unnecessary test will significantly lower exporter cost and make U.S. corn and corn products more competitive in the Thai market. In 2010, the export of U.S. corn and corn products to Thailand were valued at \$6 million.

End of the Report.